

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /015 W
-----031739 202212Z /75

P 202130Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2395

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 6351

FOR TODMAN ONLY

E.O. 11652: NGDS
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.)
SUBJECT: DRAFT MEMCOM OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S MEETING WITH
FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ

REF STATE 240824

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION ON YOUR
OCT 17 MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ:

2. QUOTE: PARTICIPANTS: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN; AMBASSADOR
HURWITCH; FOREIGN SECRETARY EMILIO JIMENEZ, HIJO; AMBASSADOR
MILTON MESSINA, CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN COMMERCE COMMISSION. DATE
AND PLACE: OCTOBER 17, 1977, 9:30 A.M. AT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT,
SANTO DOMINGO.

3. FOLLOWING THE EXCHANGE OF COURTESY REMARKS, AMBASSADOR TODMAN
REFERRED TO THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE OASGA IN GRENADA AND THE
STRONG SUPPORT THE US RECEIVED FROM THE GODR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUE WHICH DOMINATED THAT MEETING. HE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION
THE FAVORABLE REPERCUSSIONS IN THE HEMISPHERE THAT FOLLOWED OAS
ADOPTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION, NOTING REPORTS OF THE
RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, MOVEMENTS TOWARDS CONSTITUTIONAL
PROCESSES AND FREE ELECTIONS, AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HEMIS-
PHERE. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT ON THIS
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QUESTION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID
HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT OF INTEREST ONLY TO THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID
ALL NATIONS BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEFENSE AND PROTECTION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

4. FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT OUR
DELEGATIONS HAD WORKED SO WELL TOGETHER AT GRENEADA, REFERRED TO

EFFORTS OF THE GODR TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE AND SAID THE GODR SUPPORTED US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THAT CONNECTION, HE MENTIONED THE RECENT GODR DECISION TO RETURN PASSPORTS TO MANY DOMINICANS WHO HAD ILLEGALLY VISITED COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

5. IT WAS AGREED WE HAVE FEW BILATERAL PROBLEMS, BUT JIMENEZ SINGLED OUT ONE WHICH HE SAID IS MOST UNCOMFORTABLE FOR THE DOMINICANS--POSSIBLE CONTROLS ON TEXTILE IMPORTS TO THE US. HE NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR HURWITCH HAD RECENTLY GIVEN HIM A DIPLOMATIC NOTE ADVISING OF THE USG DESIRE TO HAVE THE GODR RESTRAIN EXPORTS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO THE US, AND SUGGESTING A DATE (NOV 28-30) FOR A TEAM TO VISIT SANTO DOMINGO TO NEGOTIATE A RESTRAINT AGREEMENT. NOTING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE ON TEXTILE PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FREE ZONES OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HE FOUND THE US APPROACH HERE CONTRADICTORY TO THAT ADVOCATED BY MRS ROSALYNN CARTER IN HER RECENT PUERTO RICO SPEECH WHERE SHE CALLED FOR WIDER ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS, PARTICULARLY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, HE HOPED THE RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENT COULD BE HALD OFF UNTIL AFTER THE DOMINICAN NATIONAL ELECTIONS NEXT MAY 16.

6. AMBASSADOR TODMAN RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF LIGHT INDUSTRY PRODUCTION TO MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE STRONG PRESSURES IN THE US TO CONTROL THESE IMPORTS. HE ALSO

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NOTED THAT ONLY SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS EXPORTED FROM HERE TO THE US WILL BE AFFECTED. ACKNOWLEDGING THE POINT REGARDING TIMING OF NEGOTIATIONS IN LIGHT OF FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, HE SAID WE WOULD STUDY THIS QUESTION FURTHER.

7. FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMINEZ REFERRED TO THE NEW INTEREST OF THE US IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE REPORTED PLANS FOR A CONCERTED DEVELOPMENT EFFORT BY INTERESTED INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND THE STATES OF THE REGION. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT AMBASSADOR MESSINA PICKED UP THE TOPIC TO DISCUSS A RECENT MEETING OF DOMINICAN EXPERTS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE MAJOR PROBLEM, HE SAID, IS THAT EVERYBODY IN THE REGION PRODUCES THE SAME THINGS: SUGAR, RUM, COFFEE, COCOA, ETC.

8. AMBASSADOR TODMAN SAID THE APPROACH OF THE CARIBBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP IS TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN, WITH THE STRESS ON COMMON CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED (DONORS AND RECIPIENTS) OF PROJECTS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT, AND WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE IBRD AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. AMBASSADOR TODMAN EXPLAINED THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP REFLECTS OUR INTEREST IN BRINGING TOGETHER THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED IN A MORE SHARPLY FOCUSED ORGANISM THAT DEALS WITH CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT. AND THE BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, HE ADDED, IS TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY PROBLEMS AND TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SOLVE THEM. HE STRESSED THAT THE GROUP WOULD CONCERN ITSELF NOT NECESSARILY WITH TRADE AND BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS CONSIDERATIONS, BUT WITH JOB-CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /015 W
-----032040 202214Z /75

P 202130Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2396

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 6351

FOR TODMAN ONLY

9. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BRING HAITI INTO THE NEW PROGRAM. JIMENEZ PICKED UP THIS THEME, AGREEING STRONGLY THAT HAITIAN PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT. AN ECONOMICALLY STRONG HAITI, HE SAID, IS MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC THAN A POOR HAITI. HE THEN MENTIONED THE PROPOSED AGREEMENTS DISCUSSED LAST MONTH BY A GODR DELEGATION TO PORT AU PRINCE CONCERNING TRADE, TRANSPORT AND BANKING (CLEARING-HOUSE PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS). PRESIDENT BALAGUER, HE SAID, HAS ALREADY AUTHORIZED HIM TO SUCH AGREEMENTS, BUT HE INDICATED THAT THE GOH DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE TOO INTERESTED IN CONCLUDING THEM. EVERY TIME A HAITIAN MINISTER HAS BEGUN TO STUDY THESE ARRANGEMENTS, THAT MINISTER IS CHANGED AND THE NEW ONE BEGINS TO STUDY THEM ANEW. THE DOMINICAN INTEREST, HE SAID, IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE ISLAND, NOT JUST ITS EASTERN TWO-THIRDS. AN INVENTORY OF EXPLOITABLE RESOURCES SUCH AS FISHING MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BOTH HAITIAN AND DOMINICAN CONCERNS, AND HE CITED THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY DOMINICAN HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN THE MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAM WHEN THE HAITIANS DID NOT TAKE SIMILAR MEASURES. REVERTING AGAIN TO THE NEED TO HELP WITH HAITIAN DEVELOPMENT, HE REMARKED THAT PRESIDENT DUVALIER IS CHANGING THINGS IN HAITI FOR THE BETTER.

10. IN ANY CASE, HE CONCLUDED THE GODR IS FULLY DISPOSED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND TO COOPERATE WITH ITS CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS THROUGH PROJECTS THAT MAY

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EMERGE FROM THE CONSIDERATIONS OF SUCH A GROUP. HE ADDED THAT THE GODR WOULD PREFER THE IABD TO TAKE THE LEADING ROLE IN THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP BUT WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT WORLD BANK LEADERSHIP.

11. AMBASSADOR MESSINA THEN MADE REFERENCE TO THE PROPOSED NEW DOMINICAN INVESTMENT LAW AND THE GODR'S STRONG DESIRE TO SEE A CONTINUING INCREASE IN US PRIVATE INVESTMENTS. THE PROPOSED NEW LAW IS NOT ANTI-INVESTMENT, HE SAID. RATHER, IT IS AN EFFORT TO BALANCE THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE WITH THAT OF THE ENTREPRENEUR. AMBASSADOR TODMAN, REFERRING TO HIS MEETING EARLIER IN THE MORNING WITH THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HERE, SAID HE FOUND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AMONG US BUSINESSMEN ABOUT THE DOMINICAN BUSINESS CLIMATE AND THE TREATMENT US BUSINESSMEN HAVE HAD HERE.

12. AMBASSADOR TODMAN DISCUSSED THE RECENT EVOLUTION OF US-CUBAN TIES. HE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF ISSUES REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED AND HE REASSURED THE DOMINICANS THAT WE ARE IN NO HURRY TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS SINCE THESE HOLD FEW TANGIBLE BENEFITS FOR US. JIMENEZ REMARKED THAT IT IS THE CUBANS WHO STAND TO BENEFIT MOST FROM AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH THE US. END QUOTE.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTO06351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770386-0772
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771038/aaaabfxk.tel
Line Count: 199
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 591d3a2a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 240824
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 843993
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRAFT MEMCOM OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ
TAGS: OVIP, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/591d3a2a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009